

Amendments to the Specification

Page 23, first paragraph, is amended as follows:

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A diagram of a side-view of a particularly preferred embodiment of a lancet magazine (1) is shown in figure 1 in which a side wall of the housing (3) has been removed to enable a view into the lancet magazine (1) and of the lancets (2) contained therein. The lancet magazine (1) has essentially an elongate, flat cuboid shape in which the lancets (2) are arranged linearly next to one another each in pair-wise contact. The lancets can be manually pushed to the removal site (4) with the aid of a transport device (5) for which an operating knob (6) for the transport device (5) is provided on the outside of a long, narrow side of the lancet magazine (1). The transport device (5) can be moved continuously or discontinuously, for example with stops, with the aid of the operating knob (6). The position of the operating knob (6) allows the actual filling level of the magazine (1) to be displayed. As best shown in Figs. 1, 3, and 4, lancets (2) are removed from the lancet magazine (1) in a direction that is substantially parallel to a longitudinal axis of the lancing device (15) and transport device (5) moves in a direction substantially perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the lancing device (15).

Page 25, second paragraph, to page 26, first paragraph, is amended as follows:

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After the protecting cap (18) has been removed from the lancing device (15), the tip (17) of the lancing device is exposed (figure 3A). The lancing device (15) is moved with its tip (17) first towards the lancet magazine (1) in which a lancet (2) is located at the removal position (4) (figure 3B). The tip (17) of the lancing device (15) has a recess which enables the tip (17) to be

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pushed over the lancet magazine (1). As a result the lancet holder (19) is inserted through the opening (9) into the lancet magazine. In this process the flexible holding tongue (20) glides over the lancet (2) located at the removal position (4) which slightly bends the holding tongue (20) upwards (figure 3C). As the lancet holder (19) is further inserted into the lancet magazine (1), the lancet is pushed by the ejector (~~20a~~) 21 towards the opening (10) until the pin (13) of the lancet body (12) rests on the stop (8) thus preventing further displacement of the lancet (2) (figure 3D). When the lancet holder (19) is pushed farther into the lancet magazine (1), the ejector (~~20a~~) 21 no longer pushes the whole lancet (2) but only the protective sheath (14) towards the opening (10). When the lancet holder (19) is completely inserted into the lancet magazine (1), the ejector (20a) separates the protective sheath (14) from the lancet tip and the protective sheath falls out of the opening (10). At the same time the barb of the flexible holding tongue (20) grips in front of the lancet body (12) and thus holds the lancet (2) in the lancet holder (19) (figure 3E). When the lancing device (15) is removed from the lancet magazine (1), the lancet (2) which is located in the lancet holder (19) is also removed from the magazine (1). This makes room at the removal position (4) for a lancet (2) to be advanced which can be manually pushed to the removal position (4) with the aid of the transport device (5) traveling in a direction substantially perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the lancing device (15) (figure 3F). After the process of removing the lancet (2) from the lancet magazine (1), the lancing device (15) must be sealed with the protecting cap (18). In this process the lancing device (15) can be automatically tensioned by rotation of the protecting cap (18). It is thus available for collecting blood.

Page 26, second paragraph, to page 27, first paragraph, is amended as follows:

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Figure 4A shows a further particularly preferred embodiment of the lancet magazine (1) according to the invention in a side-view in which the lancet magazine (1) is shown partially in section. The lancet magazine (1) has essentially an elongate flat cuboid shape. Like the embodiment of figure 1, the lancets (2) in this case are also arranged essentially linearly next to one another and in pair-wise contact. The lancets (2) are transported automatically towards the removal position (4) by a transport device (5) traveling in a direction substantially perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the lancing device (15). In the embodiment of Fig. 4A, transport device (5) ~~which~~ is essentially composed of a plate (25) and two spiral springs (26) which drive this plate (25). A second transport device (5') is provided in the region of the removal position (4). This is essentially composed of a movable housing member (27) which is held in the resting position shown by a spiral spring (26). In the region of the transport device (5') there are also the openings (9) for inserting the lancing device as well as the opening (10) to eject the protective sheath (14) of the lancet (2) which also makes use of the flexible tongue (38) which is movably attached to the housing (3) of the lancet magazine (1). A further component of the transport device (5') is a gripper system (28) which grips the top lancet (2), i.e. the lancet that is nearest to the removal position (4), when the transport device (5') is operated.
